

**STILLWATER COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

**Notice:** These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).

**REGULAR MEETING  
November 22, 2022**

**PRESENT** Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton, Chair, Jeff Ruffatto, member. Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk & Recorder

Others Present: Chip Kem, Sheriff; Kisha Cornell, City of Columbus; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Chad Coles, Facilities.

**PLEDGE** Commissioner Hamilton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES** October 4, 2022. Commissioner Ruffatto **MOVED** to approve the minutes from October 4, 2022. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**CLAIMS** 110882 through 110963 in the amount of \$362,189.82. Commissioner Ruffatto **MOVED** to approve claims 110882 through 110963 in the amount of \$362,189.82. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** None.

**FILE ITEMS** **Treasurer**  
A) Report for the month of October in the amount of \$56,806,544.96.

**Commission**  
A) SPA 124-Permit for Fireman's Point.

Commissioner Ruffatto **MOVED** to approve the file items. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR BUSINESS** **Airport**  
A) Request No. 3 invoice payment for T-Hangar project in the amount of \$523.95. Kisha Cornell explained that this is for the continuing work on the design work and business plan. The business plan should be ready for review and bid in December. Commissioner Ruffatto **MOVED** to approve Request No. 3 invoice payment for T-Hangar project in the amount of \$523.95. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Commission**  
A) Caslen Assisted Living lease agreement. Commissioner Ruffatto explained that this is a renewal of the lease that was a 5 year lease initiated in 2017. This is a renewal for three years and is unchanged with the exception of inflation adjusted rents per the lease. Commissioner Ruffatto **MOVED** to approve the Caslen Assisted Living lease agreement. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Absarokee Water & Sewer**  
A) Absarokee Sewer RSID wastewater system improvements project payment request #26. Commissioner Ruffatto **MOVED** to approve the Absarokee Sewer RSID wastewater system improvements project payment request #26. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Commissioner Hamilton explained that this is a request to draw on RD loan funds in the amount of \$132,781.82. Discussion – Jerry Friend stated that his office has had several phone

calls asking why their tax bill has increased. Jerry reminded the callers of the increase for the project. No one has really complained of the increase. Commissioner Hamilton noted that he had a call from a taxpayer who had questions regarding this and directed them to the Treasurer's office as there may be some tax assistance programs available that they may qualify for. Jerry replied that the state has programs like the property tax assistance program available, a good disabled veterans program is available as well. Regardless of the program though, taxpayers will still pay full costs for services such as garbage, sewer and lighting districts, those do not get reduced. It can help with the property values. The PTAP program is based on the first \$200,000.00 of property value and has to be the residence you live in. When this was put in place several years ago, a \$200,000.00 was a good house. The legislature is going to look at raising this amount, hopefully in the upcoming session. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Road & Bridge**

A) Contract award for N. Stillwater Road. Commissioner Ruffatto **MOVED** to approve the contract award for N. Stillwater Road. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Discussion - Commissioner Hamilton explained that this is for sections of washout on N Stillwater Road, sections 1, 2 & 5. The contracted amount is for \$783,360.00 is awarded to Donnes, Inc. This is the same company that did the work on the Stillwater River Road. There were two bids that were received. They were vetted and compared by Stahley Engineering and the county received the letter of recommendation for contract award from them. Motion passed unanimously. Jerry Friend asked if there was a timeline for the repairs. Commissioner Hamilton replied that repair will be weather permitted. He believes they have 60 days to complete the work once work has begun. Hopefully this week or next week there will be some snow melt off if there is nice weather. The plan is to work on this through the winter and have it completed. They have 60 days from start to finish. When the county receives a notice to proceed and a signed contract back, there will be a better idea on the date.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**    None heard.

**With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.**

APPROVED BY:        /s/ Tyrel Hamilton, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST:                Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder